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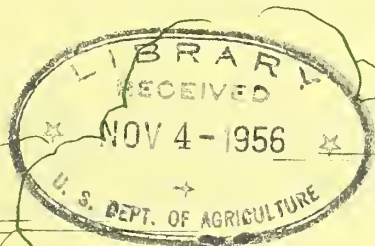
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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the FOREST SERVICE

The year 1955 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Forest Service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

On February 1, 1905, the Forest Service was created in its present form in the Department of Agriculture through the merging of the earlier Bureau of Forestry and the forestry division of the General Land Office. Although forestry received the attention of the Federal Government as early as 1876, it was not until the present Forest Service came into being that a rounded national policy for forestry was developed and work began to go forward with long-range objectives to maintain and increase the productivity of forest lands everywhere in the country.

Progress in forestry in the United States during the half century has been great. Working together, private and public agencies have effectively demonstrated the values of organized protection against fire, insects, and disease, and of good management and wise use of the Nation's forest resources. Especially significant have been the advances in research, the development of the National Forests, the expansion in activities of the State forestry departments, the development of forestry education, and the big advances in the practice of forestry by the forest industries.

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August 16, 1954

"FOR THE PERMANENT GOOD OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE"

In the 50 years of its existence, the Forest Service has had a colorful history. Many of its "alumni," still living, can recall the early struggles of the infant bureau to promote the then somewhat novel idea of managing forest lands for continuous production, and, in the face of much misunderstanding and antagonism, to develop the public forests for the use and benefit of the public.

The Forest Service came into being when Theodore Roosevelt, ardent advocate of conservation, was President of the United States. Its first Chief, Gifford Pinchot, the first native American to obtain professional training in forestry, had previously headed the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture.

The Federal "Forest Reserves," establishment of which began in 1891, had been under jurisdiction of the General Land Office, Department of the Interior. An act of Congress in 1905 brought these reserves into the Department of Agriculture, and paved the way for the establishment of the Forest Service. It followed a recommendation of President Roosevelt that the "forest work of the Government should be concentrated in the Department of Agriculture, where . . . problems relating to growth from the soil are already gathered, and where all the sciences auxiliary to forestry are at hand for prompt and effective cooperation."

The forest reserves (later to be known as "national forests") were established by reservation of certain areas of public domain, mostly in the western States. At first they were opposed by many who thought that the reserves were to be locked up, thus thwarting the development of local industry and sacrificing the present to the future. But President "Teddy" Roosevelt insisted that "forestry is the preservation of forests by wise use"; that forestry means "making the forests useful not only to the settler, the rancher, the miner, the men who live in the neighborhood, but indirectly, to the men who may live hundreds of miles off down the course of some great river which has had its rise among the forest bearing mountains."

In similar vein, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson declared that all land in National Forests was "to be devoted to its most productive use, for the permanent good of the whole people."

PROGRESS ON A BROAD FRONT

Private Forestry

Half a century ago, the owner of a tract of forest land usually aimed at getting an immediate return from cutting and selling the timber, and from selling the cleared land to settlers. Until a small band of pioneer conservationists began to preach forestry, few ever thought of holding and managing woodlands for permanent production.

Today large numbers of owners are managing their forests for continuous crops of timber. These include many of the big lumber and pulp and paper companies with large timberland holdings, as well as many farmers and other owners of small woodland properties.

Several national and regional associations of lumbermen and pulp and paper manufacturers are now conducting programs to promote good forestry practices. A "tree farm" program, under sponsorship of American Forest Products Industries, Inc., now operates in 36 States. In 1954, some 5,000 landowners were reported to be participating, with holdings totaling over 30 million acres of forest land--about 9 percent of all the private commercial forest land in the United States.

State Forestry

The first State forestry department was established in California in 1885. Later in that same year Colorado, New York, and Ohio also organized State agencies for forestry work. But 8 years later all of these States but New York had discontinued their forestry departments. It was not until after 1905 that State forestry work really got going. Today nearly all of the 48 States, as well as Hawaii and Puerto Rico, have agencies engaged in forestry activities.

The Weeks Act of 1911, which laid the groundwork for Federal-State cooperation in forestry, was a great stimulus to the development of effective State forestry agencies. The Clarke-McNary Act, passed by Congress in 1924, greatly broadened the basis for this cooperative work.

The State Foresters' organizations are now providing systematic protection against fire for more than 374 million acres of State and private forest and watershed land under the cooperative program. Forty-three States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are producing and distributing trees to help landowners reforest idle lands or establish shelterbelts; last year some 435 million trees were distributed. Thirty-nine States, with Federal Forest Service cooperation, under the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950, are providing on-the-ground technical assistance to owners of private forests in the management of their woodlands; and assistance on processing problems to small sawmill operators and other processors of primary forest products. States, counties, and municipalities maintain about 26½ million acres of State and community forests and parks. In 45 States and Puerto Rico extension programs in forestry are being conducted through the extension departments of the State agriculture colleges. In these programs farmers are provided with information on the various phases of woodland management and the utilization of farm timber. Thousands of farm youths are carrying on forestry projects in 4-H Club work.

Forestry Schools

Professional training in forestry was still a very new idea here in the United States in 1905. The first 4-year professional course in forestry, in fact, had been started at Cornell University only 7 years earlier, in 1898. In that same year, the Biltmore School of Forestry, a private school, was started in North Carolina; it continued until 1912. The Yale Forest School was established in 1900, offering graduate courses in forestry leading to a Master's degree.

A few more schools of forestry came into being during the next 3 years. Between 1902 and 1905, regular forestry courses were started at the University of Michigan, the State Forest Academy at Mont Alto, Pa., the University of Maine, University of Nebraska, University of Minnesota, and Colorado College. Harvard University also set up an undergraduate course in 1903, but later moved its forestry work to the graduate school. Before 1905 Michigan and Iowa State Colleges were offering nonprofessional courses that were later expanded into full professional curricula.

These were the schools that were pioneering in forestry education half a century ago. Most of these institutions then had only 1 or 2 forestry teachers and a handful of students. Today more than 30 universities and colleges in the United States are offering full professional instruction in forestry. More than 21,000 students have completed regular 4-year courses in forestry in the past 50 years. More than 4,000 have earned Master's or Doctor's degrees in this field.

Federal Forestry Activities

The work of the Forest Service in the past half century has gone forward along three principal lines: administration of the National Forests; cooperation in forestry programs with the States and private forest owners; and research.

The National Forests in 1905 were largely undeveloped, remote back-country areas. There were few roads or other facilities for protection and management. For the most part the forest boundaries were not marked nor even surveyed. Today the National Forests are playing a substantial part in the Nation's economy. They are supplying a yearly cut of more than 5 billion board-feet of timber, and the present sustained-yield capacity is estimated to be at least 6.9 billion board-feet. This allowable yearly cut under sustained-yield will become even greater as the basic growing stocks are further built up and as utilization practices further improve. The National Forests are furnishing seasonal grazing for some 8 million cattle and sheep. Last year, the National Forests reported 35 million visits by persons seeking outdoor recreation. These forests are the home for great numbers of wildlife, including nearly a third of the Nation's big-game animals. They have 81,000 miles of fishing streams and over 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ million acres of lakes. National Forests help protect the water supplies of some 1,800 cities and towns, of more than 13 million acres of irrigated farmland, of more than 600 hydroelectric power developments, and of thousands of industrial plants. As public properties containing basic natural resources, the National Forests are managed for continuous production. A policy of multiple use is followed which seeks to maintain a balanced production and use of all the forest resources, and to bring the largest total of returns and benefits in the public interest. Protection and scientific management of these resources are helping to stabilize industries and communities dependent on them.

Even before the Forest Service was established, its predecessor, the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, was publishing bulletins to encourage good forestry practice, and offering to help private forest owners plan their timber harvest so as to obtain successive crops. Federal cooperation with the States for the protection of State and private forest lands from fire began following enactment of the Weeks Act of 1911. The Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 materially expanded the scope of cooperation in fire control. This Act also provided for Federal cooperation with the States in the production and distribution of forest planting stock, and in forestry extension work. Federal cooperation with the States in providing technical assistance to owners of private forest lands and to processors of primary forest products is carried on under authorization of the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950, which superseded the Norris-Doxey Cooperative Farm Forestry Act of 1937.

Research has been a major activity almost since the Forest Service came into being. New methods and practices developed through research in forest and range management and wood utilization have contributed much to the advance of forestry. Research results over the years have been worth millions of dollars to agriculture and industry and to the public as a whole. The Forest Service now maintains nine regional forest and range experiment stations; also forest research units in Puerto Rico and Alaska. The Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., established in 1910, is one of the world's largest institutions for research in the utilization of wood.

Several other Federal agencies are also concerned to some extent with forestry matters. The Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service of the Department of the Interior have forestry units. Military reservations of the Army, Navy, and Air Force contain several million acres of forest land. The Tennessee Valley Authority administers some forested lands above its reservoirs and carries on activities to encourage good forestry practices by private land owners. In the Department of Agriculture there are forestry phases in the work of the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and Agricultural Conservation Program Service.

THEN AND NOW

In 1898, Gifford Pinchot and Henry S. Graves, who were to become the first and second Chiefs of the Forest Service, were the only 2 native-born, professionally trained foresters in the United States (and they had obtained their training in Europe). By 1912, there were still only about 500 men in the United States with some degree of technical training in

forestry. (There were also many early-day forest rangers, lumbermen, and others who began without a technical background, but through their own experience acquired a considerable knowledge of the subject.) Figures from the forestry schools indicate that about 1,000 degrees in forestry are now being granted annually.

In the first decade of this century, the Forest Service was the principal employer of American foresters. In 1912 it was estimated that 60 percent of the professional foresters in the country were in Federal government work, and that fully 95 percent had been so engaged at one time or another. The Forest Service is still the largest single employer of trained foresters, but it now employs only a small part of the total. The States, municipalities, educational institutions, trade associations, and private corporations have absorbed large numbers of graduating foresters. Many others are in business as consulting foresters. Twenty-five years ago, all private industry in the United States employed less than 200 graduate foresters. Today the forest industries employ some 5,000.

In the fiscal year 1905 the receipts from uses of the National Forests were less than \$75,000. National Forests receipts in fiscal year 1954 were more than \$67,000,000.

When the Forest Service came into being, the first Chief Forester, Gifford Pinchot, speedily fused a new organization, youthful in spirit, enthusiastic, inspired by a high purpose and determined to get things done. The work appealed to young men with venturesome spirit, love of the outdoors, and zeal for public service. A new public enterprise was in the making.

But in the western National Forests, many a forest officer in those days had to face a hostile local sentiment. He was pictured in newspaper cartoons as an insolent dragoon pitilessly riding down women and children; or he was described as wearing a feather in his hat after the supposed fashion of European foresters, or ridiculed as an Eastern dude or a bespectacled college professor out of place. It took some time for people in those areas to find out that a forest ranger was not a hireling sent from Washington to interfere in their local affairs, but a person interested in bringing about the orderly use of public resources to aid in the sound, healthy development of the community to which he himself belonged.

In time, the forest ranger came to be a respected figure, sometimes even a romantic hero of movies and novels. Now each year the Forest Service receives several thousand letters from boys who want to know how to become a forest ranger.

In 1905, when a fire occurred in a National Forest, the ranger would round up whatever help he could enlist among local settlers, and they would go on horseback or afoot to fight the blaze. Often the ranger would tackle a large fire singlehanded and do what he could with ax and shovel to check the spread of the blaze. Many a fire in the back-country burned for weeks or months, until rain or snow finally extinguished it. Today, both Federal and State forest fire control is highly organized. Radio communication, mechanized fire-fighting equipment, fast automotive and aerial transportation speed and facilitate the control work. In some of the western mountain country, smokejumpers now parachute to fires in inaccessible forest areas.

Fifty years ago, very little land outside the National Forests was receiving any regular or systematic protection against fire. Today, the State forestry agencies, with private and Federal cooperation, maintain organized protection for more than 374 million acres of State and private forest land. In 1953, area burned was held to 0.7 percent of the area protected. Of the 53 million acres of forest land that still lack organized protection, fires burned 13.5 percent.

MANY HAVE HELPED

The advances made in forestry over the past half century have been the result of efforts by many organizations and individuals along with those of the State and Federal forestry agencies.

It was in response to demands from the American people, expressed through many citizens' groups, that the Forest Service was established half a century ago. The American Forestry Association was one of the earliest of many national and local conservation organizations that have long been active in the promotion of forestry measures. Numerous service clubs, civic organizations, sportsmen's organizations, farm organizations, labor unions, veterans' groups, chambers of commerce, garden clubs, women's organizations, young folks' organizations, and church groups have been actively interested in forest conservation. State forestry associations, composed of woodland owners, foresters, and public-spirited citizens often spearheaded forestry activities within their particular States.

Industrial groups and associations also have been concerned with forestry. National and regional associations of lumbermen and pulp and paper manufacturers have been making fine progress in getting good forestry practices in effect on member companies' lands, and in many cases also are encouraging and facilitating better practice on the part of other woodland owners. Many forest industry concerns are cooperating with the Forest Service and State agencies in forestry research projects. American Forest Products Industries, Inc., sponsors the "Tree Farm" program and the "Keep Green" forest-fire prevention programs now conducted in many States.

The nationwide Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign ("Smokey Bear") is conducted by the State Foresters and the Federal Forest Service under sponsorship of the Advertising Council, Inc., with the support of American business, including the advertising industry, and the cooperation of many other organizations.

More than 20 American railroads now employ foresters to help promote better forest practice in the areas they serve. The American Bankers' Association has had a forestry committee. Many county governments have become interested in seeing a better brand of forest management practiced, realizing that the tax base is improved and business and income in the community stabilized when the forests are kept permanently productive.

The schools of forestry in American universities and colleges deserve much credit. Perhaps even more important than the technical training given have been the ideals, the vision, and the enthusiasm for forestry work that these schools have instilled in their students.

Professional standards for forestry have been set by the Society of American Foresters, a professional organization to which most foresters belong.

The foresight and vision of many Congresses over the years is reflected in laws which led the way in formulating American forest policy. From the beginning, forestry has had bipartisan support in Congress. Major advances in the national forestry program have taken place during both Republican and Democratic administrations.

THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

Starting almost from scratch at the beginning of this century, American forestry has made remarkable advances in the past 50 years. What men of vision half a century ago saw in the years ahead fell far short of what actually came to pass. They failed to fully foresee the astounding developments that have taken place in science, agriculture, and industry. They could not know that the half century would bring two world wars. All of these things made their impacts on the forests and on the course of forestry.

No more than our predecessors can we today foresee what lies ahead. Perhaps we are on the threshold of new developments in chemistry that will bring many new uses for wood--uses that we can't even visualize today. Perhaps advances in tree genetics will give us new and better kinds of trees, and cause innovations, therefore, in our methods of forest management. The course of the national economy or changes in the international situation may greatly affect supply and demand for forest products.

It is reasonable to assume, at least, that the people of the United States will continue to need the forests and the products and services of forest lands. A growing population and an expanding economy, indeed, should mean increasing demands on the forests.

There is every prospect that the pressure for water will increase. Our per capita consumption of water has multiplied during recent decades. In many parts of the country, further agricultural, industrial, recreational, and municipal developments depend primarily on increasing the supply of usable water. The forest's function as a protector of watersheds is its most important service in many areas. It is likely to become even more critically important.

There is every prospect, too, that requirements for timber will continue to grow. As the supply of some of the nonrenewable resources dwindles, the substitution of wood products may call for an increased output of timber from renewable forests. The expected large increase in the country's population, the development of new uses for wood, and a rising standard of living, may indeed bring a tremendous increase in pressure on the forests for timber products. The food needs of a growing population also may increase the pressure on forest ranges for livestock forage.

The number of recreational visits to the National Forests has nearly doubled since 1941, the year of highest prewar use. Continued growth in the demand for forest recreation, including fishing and hunting, seems inevitable. As the complexities of modern living increase, and as the workaday activities of most people become further removed from field, forest, and stream, the need for healthful and relaxing outdoor recreation will be greater. The spiritual, esthetic, and recreational values of the forests will become ever more precious.

With such ever-increasing demands in prospect for water, timber, recreation, and other products and services of the forests, it may be expected that private forestry will continue to advance, and that the development of the National Forests and other public forests will continue in response to growing needs. It may be expected, too, that a growing realization of the importance of the forest resources will bring a greater appreciation by the people of the need for management and wise use of the forests.

Forestry, then, should go steadily forward. Its potentialities for contributing to national prosperity, security, and progress are very great. Fifty years from now, as today, the strength of the Nation will lie in its people and its resources.

FIFTY GOLDEN RINGS

As a tree grows in the forest, the girth of its trunk is increased each year by the formation, under its bark, of a new layer of wood. Foresters measure the rate of a tree's growth by these "annual rings."

The year 1955 is an occasion for measuring 50 years of growth in American forestry. It will mark the golden anniversary of the establishment of the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture--an appropriate time to call up for review the past half century of progress and achievement in the conservation of the Nation's forest resources, and to take a new look at the job ahead.



